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1997 Outcomes of Former
University, College and Institute
Co-op Students

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**1997 Outcomes of Former University, College and Institute
Co-op Students**

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The Highlights

This Report examines the education, labour market and further education outcomes of former students who enrolled in co-op programs at one of the province's public universities, colleges and institutes.

To be included in this study, former students from BC's universities and colleges and institutes had to be enrolled in an applied program that was funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and offered co-op work terms.¹ College and institute students who indicated they completed all of the co-op work placements required by their program and university students who reported they completed co-op placements as part their bachelor's degree were considered **co-op students**. College and institute and university students who were enrolled in the same programs, but did not complete the co-op work placements, were considered **non-co-op students**.

The results presented in this report are not a comparison of college and institute students and university students. While some of the outcomes of former university and college and institute co-op and non-co-op students may have similarities, the students, and the surveys they respond to, are distinct and should be regarded as such.

COLLEGE AND INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of former co-op and non-co-op students differed.

Seventy-two percent of former co-op students said obtaining "job skills" was their main reason for enrolling, while 57 percent of non-co-op students said the same. For non-co-op students "degree attainment" and "other" reasons were more important than for co-op students.

Proportionally, more co-op students than non co-op students completed their studies.

Eighty-eight percent of co-op students had completed their credential when interviewed, compared to 75 percent of non-co-op students; this was despite the fact that most co-op students did not indicate that obtaining a credential was a major reason for enrolling. This result may be related to the finding that a large percentage of former non-co-op students went on to further education after leaving their program.

¹ See page 6 for more information on college and institute and university cohort inclusion criteria and a definition of applied programs.

1997 Outcomes of Former University and College and Institute Co-op Students

COLLEGE AND INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Former co-op and non-co-op students were very likely to be in the labour force.

Over 94 percent of former co-op students were in the labour force –employed or looking for work– when interviewed. Eighty-nine percent of non-co-op students were in the labour force.

Former co-op students were more likely to be in full-time, rather than part-time, jobs.

Eighty-eight percent of former college and institute co-op students were employed full-time and six percent were employed part-time. The numbers for non-co-op students were slightly different, with 80 percent employed full-time and 12 percent part-time.

FURTHER EDUCATION OUTCOMES

Former co-op students were not likely to pursue further education after leaving their program.

Only twenty-seven percent of former co-op students indicated they have taken further studies since leaving their program. Forty-one percent of non-co-op students pursued some type of further education since leaving their program.

SATISFACTION WITH STUDIES

Both co-op and non-co-op students felt they achieved their main reasons for enrolling.

Over 90 percent of former co-op students reported they "completely" or "mostly" achieved the goals they had for enrolling in their program. Eighty-two percent of non-co-op students reported "completely" or "mostly" achieving the goals they had for enrolling. Students' employment and further education outcomes reflected their goals, where a large percentage of co-op students went on to find training related employment, while many non-co-op students continued their education.

Former co-op students' jobs were "very" or "somewhat related" to their previous studies.

The majority of former co-op students (82%) felt their jobs were "very" or "somewhat" related to their studies. Only 58 percent of non-co-op students expressed said this relationship existed between their jobs and their studies. It should be noted that "job skills" were not as important to non-co-op students, the majority of whom enrolled to "obtain a credential" or for "other" reasons.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Both co-op and non-co-op university graduates tended to enrol for work-related reasons.

Approximately half of co-op and non-co-op graduates cited work-related reasons when asked why they pursued a university education. However, when it came to achieving their goals, co-op graduates were more likely (76%) to say they "completely" or "mostly" achieved their goals, compared to 65 percent of non-co-op graduates.

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Co-op graduates had a greater likelihood of being employed full-time.

Eighty-six percent of university co-op graduates were employed full-time when interviewed, compared to 71 percent of non-co-op graduates. Conversely, more non-co-op graduates (22%) reported working part-time than co-op graduates (9%).

Co-op graduates were more likely to have training-related jobs.

Nearly 80 percent of co-op graduates were employed at training-related jobs. Fewer non-co-op students (56%) had training-related jobs.

**FURTHER EDUCATION
OUTCOMES**

It was relatively common for co-op graduates to have taken further studies after graduating.

While 67 percent of non-co-op graduates indicated they took further studies after graduation, many co-op graduates (62%) also said they continued their education.

**SATISFACTION WITH
STUDIES**

Co-op and non-co-op graduates were equally satisfied with their bachelor programs.

Ninety-six percent of co-op graduates stated they were "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with their bachelor program. A similar number of non-co-op graduates (94%) also said they were "very" or "somewhat" satisfied.

Introduction and Key Points

A major challenge for British Columbia's post-secondary education system is the development and maintenance programs that combine classroom study with practical, job-related experience. Co-operative (co-op) programs help bridge the gap between school and work, improving students' job-skills and allowing them to explore a variety of career options as well as their own aptitudes and interests.

Co-op programs have two key goals:

- Enrich students' educational experience; and
- Improve students' post-graduation job prospects.

This Report examines the education, labour market and further education outcomes of former students who enrolled in co-op programs at one of the province's public universities, or colleges and institutes. It is the second of such reports, the first being the *1996 BC College and Institute Co-op Student Outcomes report*.

Similar to the 1996 report, this report looks at the outcomes of students who enrolled in co-op programs and participated in work-terms (co-op students) as well as students who enrolled in co-op programs but did not participate in work-terms (non-co-op students).

This year's report is different from last years report in that it explores the outcomes of former college and institute students as well as university graduates who enrolled in co-op programs.

The data in this report are taken from the results of two surveys

- College and Institute data are from the *1997 BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey*, which examined the outcomes of students who left their programs in 1996.
- University data are from the *B.C. Universities' Follow-Up Survey of 1996 Graduates*, which surveyed 1996 university graduates in 1997.

Topics covered in the College and Institute and University sections of this report include:

Demographics

- Gender and Age
- Previous Education
- Reasons for Enrolling
- Current Activity

Employment Outcomes

- Usefulness of Training
- Job Search Outcomes
- Types of Employment
- Earnings

Educational Outcomes

- Satisfaction
- Skill Development
- College Experiences

Further Education Outcomes

- Type of Further Education
- Transfer Issues

Conclusions

IMPORTANT POINTS

- The results presented in the college and institute section of this report are based on **former** students' responses to questions about their educational experience and subsequent education and employment outcomes.
- This report is not intended to be a comparison of university students and programs with college and institute co-op students and programs.

College and Institute Cohort Inclusion Criteria

HOW WERE THE COHORTS DEFINED?

Former college and institute students had to meet the following criteria to be included in this analysis:

- Were enrolled in an applied program;² and
- Were in a co-op program funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and
- Self-Identified they were in a Co-op Program (1997 B.C. College & Institute Student Outcomes Survey, Question 50B).

Based on these criteria, former college and institute students from applied programs with a co-op option were divided into two groups: those who identified they completed all of the co-op work placements (co-op students), and those who did not (non-co-op students).

College & Institute Co-op Cohort

Co-op Students	Non-Co-op Students
399	624

University Cohort Inclusion Criteria

University graduates had to meet the following criteria to be included in this analysis

- Met the definition of the university graduate cohort; and
- Were in a Ministry funded co-op program; and
- Self-Identified they completed a co-op program as part of their bachelor's program.

Students who indicated they completed co-op work placements as part of their bachelors program (*B.C. Universities' Follow-up survey of 1996 Graduates*, Question B5) were considered co-op students. Students who participated in a co-op program but did not complete the work placements were considered non-co-op students.

University Co-op Cohort

Co-op Students	Non-Co-op Students
508	2205

² Applied programs include all programs that are designed to lead to employment in a relatively specific field. To be included in the Applied cohort of the BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey, students must have completed either a minimum of 75 percent of their program requirements or 24 credits prior to or during the 1995/1996 academic year and not returned to their program the following year.

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COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

A-1 Demographics

WHO WERE FORMER
CO-OP STUDENTS?

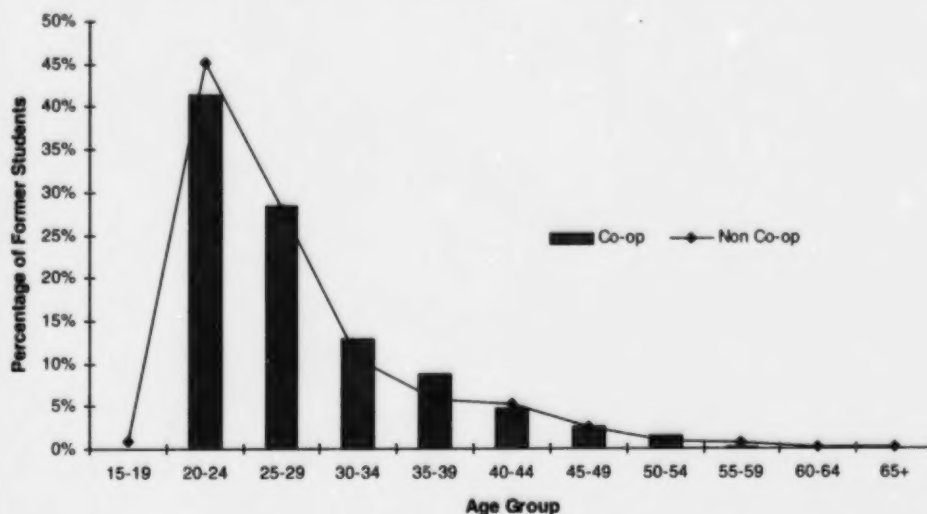
There were more male students than female students in co-op programs.

According to survey results, male students comprised 69 percent of all students who enrolled in co-op programs in B.C. in 1997. Similarly, 58 percent of non-co-op students were male.

Former co-op students were slightly older than non-co-op students.

With a median age of 26, former co-op students tended to fall between 25 and 35 years of age. While the median age for non-co-op students was similar at 25, they were more commonly in their early to mid-twenties.

Figure 1
Age Distribution / Former Co-op and Non-Co-op Students

WHAT WERE THE
EDUCATIONAL
BACKGROUNDS OF
CO-OP STUDENTS?

Former co-op and non-co-op students had similar educational backgrounds.

Most former co-op (95%) and non-co-op (95%) students had completed high school prior to enrolling. In comparison, the number of former students who completed other credentials prior to enrolling in co-op programs was relatively small.

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

Of former co-op students, sixteen percent reported they completed a certificate or diploma and 11 percent completed a degree. Non-co-op students were equally likely to have a certificate or diploma, but only 7 percent had completed a degree.

**WHY DID CO-OP
STUDENTS ENROL IN
THEIR PROGRAM?**

Obtaining job skills was the most commonly cited reason former co-op students enrolled in their programs.

Not surprisingly, 72 percent of former co-op students reported that obtaining job skills was behind their program choice. For non-co-op students, job skills were also high on their list of reasons for enrolling, but degree attainment and other reasons were also important to many.

Table 1
Students Reasons for Enrolling

	Co-op Students	Non-Co-op Students
Job Skills	72%	57%
Degree Attainment	4%	14%
Degree Attainment / Job Skills	9%	8%
Other Reasons	15%	21%

**DID CO-OP STUDENTS
SATISFY THE REASONS
HEY HAD FOR
ENROLLING?**

Most former co-op students satisfied their reasons for enrolling.

When asked if they felt they met their reasons for enrolling, 92 percent of former co-op students felt they had "completely" or "mostly" met their main reason for enrolling. A smaller number of non-co-op students (82%) reported the same.

Table 2
Met Reasons for Enrolling

	Co-op Students	Non-Co-op Students
Completely	37%	34%
Mostly	55%	48%
Not Really	6%	9%
Not at All	3%	8%

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

Regardless of the specific reasons former co-op and non-co-op students had for enrolling, they were equally likely to say they "completely" or "mostly" achieved what they originally set out to accomplish.

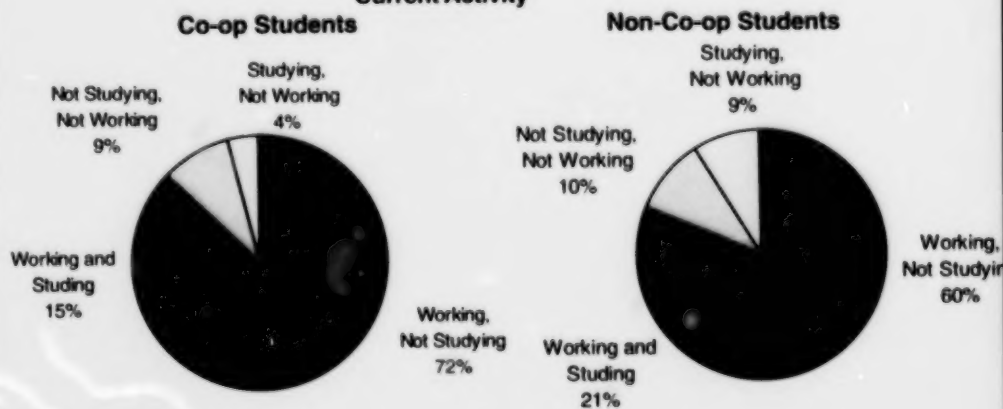
When it came to completing their credential, 88 percent of former co-op students completed their program of study, compared to 75 percent of non-co-op students; this was despite the fact that fewer co-op students reported completing a credential as their main reason for enrolling.

**WHAT WERE FORMER
CO-OP STUDENTS
DOING A YEAR AFTER
LEAVING THEIR
PROGRAM?**

Former co-op and non-co-op students were likely to be working a year after leaving their program.

When asked what they were doing at the time of the interview, 87 percent of former co-op students were either working or balancing a combination of school and work. The comparable figure for non-co-op students was 81 percent. In both groups the number of former students neither studying nor working was virtually the same (co-op 9 percent and non-co-op 10 percent). Nineteen percent of co-op students were studying, and of those 15 percent were also working. In contrast, 30 percent of non-co-op students were studying, 21 percent of whom were also working. This may explain why fewer non-co-op students were working full-time when interviewed.

**Figure 2
Current Activity**



The current activities of former co-op and non-co-op students were consistent with the goals each group had for enrolling, where co-op students tended to be more job-focussed and non-co-op students were more concerned with going on to further education and other objectives.

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

A-2 Employment Outcomes

HOW MANY FORMER
CO-OP STUDENTS
WERE IN THE
LABOUR FORCE WHEN
INTERVIEWED?

Former co-op students were more likely to be in the labour force than non-co-op students.

The labour force includes those who are either employed or actively looking for work. Slightly more than 94 percent of former co-op students were in the labour force, compared to 89 percent of non-co-op students.

Former Students did not have to spend an extended period looking for work.

The amount of time co-op and non-co-op students spent looking for work did not vary much. Co-op students reported spending an average of 1.73 months searching for a job compared to non-co-op students who spent an average of 1.96 months.

WHAT TYPES OF
WORK DID FORMER
CO-OP STUDENTS FIND
WHEN THEY LEFT THEIR
PROGRAMS?

The vast majority of former co-op students were employed full-time.

One of the main purposes of college and institute co-op programs is to improve students' job prospects after graduation, especially with regards to finding full-time employment. Survey results indicate that co-op programs are succeeding in this regard. Ninety-four percent of former co-op students who were in the labour force were employed when interviewed. Of those who were employed, 88 percent were working full time. Non-co-op students who were in the labour force had a similarly high employment rate of 92 percent, but fewer (80%) were working full-time.

Table 3
Employment Rates / Former Co-op & Non-Co-op Students

	In the Labour Force	
	Co-op Students	Non-Co-op Students
Full-Time	88%	80%
Part-Time	6%	12%
Unemployed	6%	8%

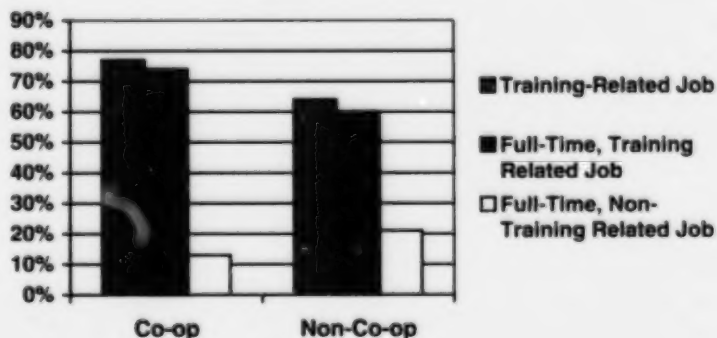
COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

WAS FORMER
CO-OP STUDENTS'
EMPLOYMENT RELATED
TO THEIR TRAINING?

Most former co-op students were employed in training related occupations.³

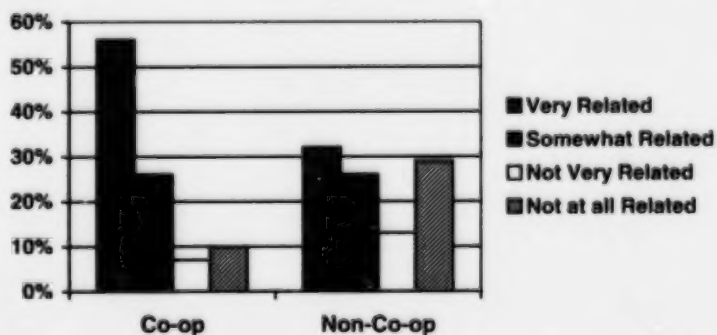
The impact of participating in co-op programs becomes even more explicit when the number of former co-op and non-co-op students working in training-related jobs is examined. Nearly 80% of former co-op students had a training-related job at the time of the interview and the majority were working full-time. For students who did not choose the co-op option, fewer were in training-related jobs and even fewer were working full time.

Figure 3
Students in Labour Force: Training-Related Employment



The majority of employed former co-op students (82%) stated their current jobs were "very" or "somewhat" related to their studies, compared to 71 percent of employed non-co-op students. Considerably more non-co-op students said their studies were "not very" or "not at all" related to their current jobs.

Figure 4
Employed Students: Relation of Current Job to studies



³ Survey respondents are asked if their jobs are "training-related." Consequently, these data are based on whether respondents perceive their job to be training-related.

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

Many former co-op students felt their studies helped them get and perform their jobs.

Former co-op and non-co-op students differed when asked if their training helped them get and perform their jobs. Over 85 percent of former co-op students said their studies were very useful when it came to both getting and performing their jobs. For non-co-op students, the responses were mixed: approximately 30 percent said their training was "not very" or "not at all" useful when it came to getting and performing their job. It is important to note that for non-co-op students, "to obtain job-skills" was not the most important reason they had for enrolling. Therefore, non-co-op students' ratings may reflect that they had other priorities, not that they were dissatisfied with this part of their studies.

Table 4
Employed Students: Usefulness of Training in Getting Job
(Job obtained After Studies)

Usefulness of Training	Getting Job		Performing Job	
	Co-op	Non-Co-op	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Very Useful	54%	40%	50%	30%
Somewhat Useful	34%	31%	38%	38%
Not Very Useful	5%	9%	6%	14%
Not at All Useful	6%	20%	6%	17%

Median Salaries of former students with full-time jobs were slightly higher for former co-op students than non-co-op students.

For employed former co-op students working in training related jobs, salaries were 6.5% higher than for non-co-op students who were doing the same.

Former co-op students who studied computer and information services programs had the highest median salaries at \$3000 per month.

Table 5
Gross Median Monthly Salaries

	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Gross Monthly Salary (\$)	\$2,583	\$2,500
Gross Monthly Salary of Training Related Job(\$)	\$2,667	\$2,500
Gross Monthly Salary of Non Training Related Job (\$)	\$2,193	\$2,081

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

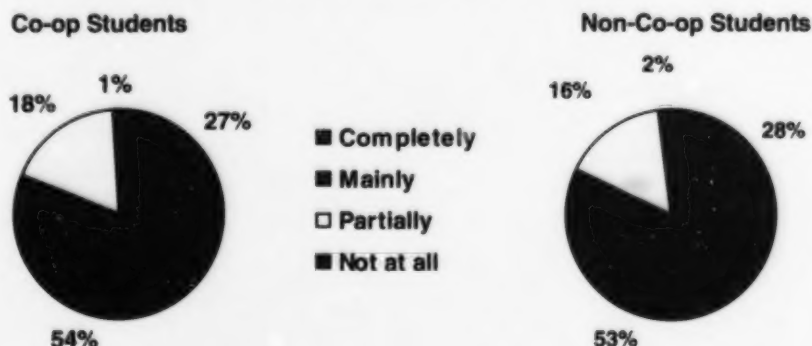
A-3 Educational Outcomes

WERE FORMER CO-OP
STUDENTS SATISFIED
WITH THEIR EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCES?

Both former co-op and non-co-op students were satisfied with their educational experiences.

Over 80% of former co-op and non-co-op students were "completely" or "mainly" satisfied with their educational experiences.

Figure 5
Satisfaction with Educational Experiences



Former co-op and non-co-op students were satisfied with the skills development opportunities their programs provided.

While former co-op students reported being slightly more satisfied with their skills development opportunities, non-co-op students were also positive about their experiences.

Of the ten areas of skills development former students were asked to evaluate, "Teamwork" and "Analysis / Problem Solving" were rated highest by both co-op and non-co-op students. Both groups of former students were less satisfied with the opportunities they had to develop "Reading & Comprehension" and "Entrepreneurial" skills. However, nearly a third of both groups said entrepreneurial skills were not applicable to their program.

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

Table 6
Satisfaction with Opportunities for Skill Development
(Rating on 3-Point Scale)

Three Highest Rated Skills				Three Lowest Rated Skills			
Co-op		Non-Co-op		Co-op		Non-Co-op	
Teamwork	2.65	Teamwork	2.62	Skills for independent learning	2.45	Reading & Comprehension	2.39
Analysis/ Problem solving	2.54	Analysis/ Problem solving	2.50	Reading & Comprehension	2.36	Use of tools / equipment	2.33
Use of Computers	2.48	Mathematics	2.47	Entrepreneurial skills	2.03	Entrepreneurial skills	2.00

Former co-op and non-co-op students rated "Quality of Teaching" and "Availability of Instructors" highly.

Former co-op and non-co-op students' satisfaction with their college experiences varied. "Quality of Teaching and "Availability of Instructors..." both received high ratings from both groups, while they had different things to say about aspects of their experiences with campus libraries.

Table 7
Satisfaction with College Experience
(Rating on 3-Point Scale)

Three Highest Rated Experiences				Three Lowest Rated Experiences			
Co-op		Non-Co-op		Co-op		Non-Co-op	
Avail. Of Instructor out of class	2.59	Quality of Teaching	2.56	Computer Hardware & Software	2.25	Places on Campus for Socializing	2.22
Practical Experience	2.55	Avail. Of Instructor out of class	2.55	Places on Campus for Socializing	2.18	Program & Career Counseling	2.20
Quality of Teaching	2.51	Library Services	2.51	Library Materials	2.10	Practical Experience	2.19

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

A-4 Further Education Outcomes

DID FORMER CO-OP
STUDENTS GO ON TO
FURTHER EDUCATION?

Relatively few co-op students returned to school after leaving.

Co-op programs are intended to give students the skills they need to enter and succeed in the labour force after leaving school. Most students enter co-op programs for these reasons, so it is not surprising that most entered the labour force after leaving their studies, rather than pursuing further education. Conversely, it is more common for non-co-op students to enter their program to obtain a credential. This fact is reflected by the larger percentage of students who go on to further education.

Table 8
Further Education Outcomes of Former College Co-op Students

	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Taken Further Studies Since Leaving	27%	41%
Taken Further Studies at BC College/Institute	11%	13%
Taken Further Studies at BC University	7%	15%

Former co-op and non-co-op students who pursued further education felt equally prepared to return to school. Of those students who returned to school, approximately 84% of former co-op and non-co-op students felt they were prepared to return to school.

COLLEGE & INSTITUTE OUTCOMES

Conclusion

Programs that include co-op work terms give students the opportunity to develop skills, gain experience, and connect with the labour force; a fact confirmed by the 88 percent of co-op students who were in the labour force and employed full-time after leaving their program. Similarly, the majority of co-op students met the goals they had for enrolling and were able to find and apply their skills to jobs related to their training. Not surprisingly, most co-op students were working and not studying when surveyed and few indicated they returned to school after leaving their initial program.

Most non-co-op students also felt they achieved the goals they had for enrolling; however, non-co-op students' goals were less focussed on employment. Many reported they enrolled to obtain a credential or for other reasons. These goals are reflected by former students' outcomes, which showed more non-co-op students went on to further education, often juggling both school and work. While fewer non-co-op students were in training-related occupations, they still had positive labour market outcomes; nearly 90 percent were in the labour force and 80 percent were working full-time.

It is clear that co-op and non-co-op students both experienced positive education and employment outcomes that were in line with the goals they had when they enrolled. Students' successes were reflected by their own appraisals of the education they received; 80 percent of both groups were "completely" or "mainly" satisfied with their studies. Nevertheless, while both groups experiences were generally positive, the value of the skills and experience co-op students obtained by participating in work terms should not be overlooked.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Section B-1

Demographics

WHO WERE FORMER
CO-OP GRADUATES?

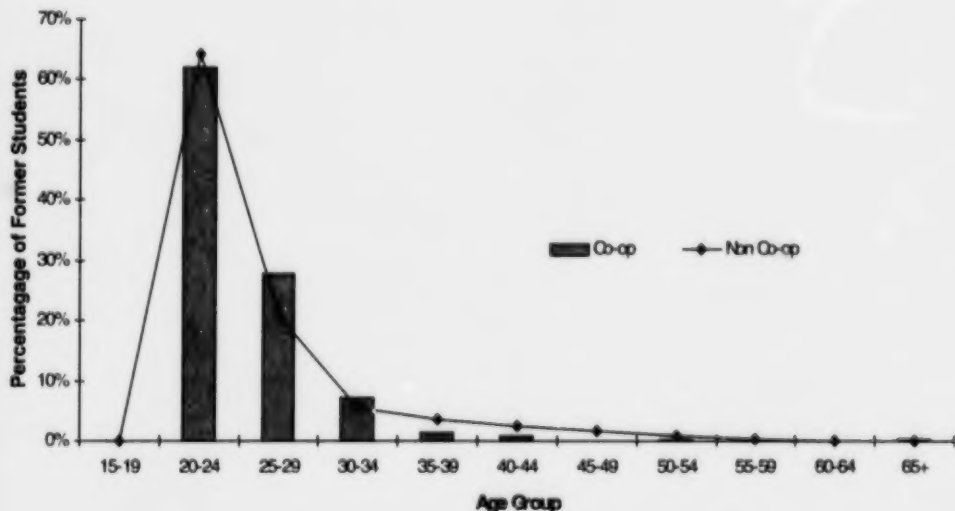
The majority of University co-op graduates were male.

According to survey results, 61 percent of university co-op graduates were male. Non-co-op graduates had a more even distribution of male (45%) and female (55%) graduates.

Most co-op and non-co-op graduates were in their 20's.

When interviewed, approximately 90 percent of former co-op graduates were between 20 and 29 years old. Individuals in their twenties also comprised the largest segment of non-co-op graduates.

Figure 1
Co-op and Non-Co-op Graduates Age Distribution



**WHAT WERE
CO-OP GRADUATES'
REASONS FOR PURSUING
A UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION?**

Co-op and non-co-op graduates had similar reasons for pursuing a university education.

Both co-op and non-co-op graduates had very similar reasons for entering university. "job-skills" and the desire to "obtain a better job" were slightly more important to co-op graduates, but the difference between co-op and non-co-op students was not great.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Table 1
Personal Goals for Pursuing University Education

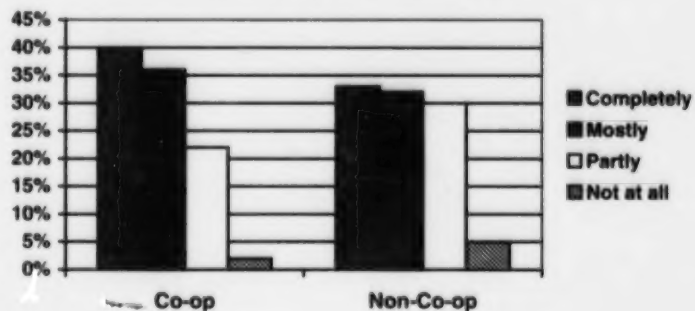
	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Wanted to Acquire Skills That Would Lead to Employment	36%	35%
Wanted to Obtain a Better Job	15%	13%
Wanted to Improve on My Existing Job Skills	2%	2%
Wanted to Broaden My Knowledge in a Specific Field of Study	12%	12%
Wanted to Obtain a Baccalaureate Degree	16%	16%
Wanted to Challenge Myself Intellectually	5%	8%
Wanted to Please My Parents/Family	3%	3%
Wanted to Fill My Time with a Worthwhile Activity	2%	2%
Wanted to Qualify for a Masters or Doctoral Program	3%	4%
Did Not Have a Personal Goal	4%	5%
Other	2%	2%

**DID CO-OP
GRADUATES ACHIEVE
THEIR GOALS?**

The majority of co-op graduates felt they achieved the goals they set for themselves.

More than 75 percent of co-op graduates felt they "completely" or "mostly" achieved their personal goals, compared to 65 percent of non-co-op graduates.

Figure 2
Achieved Personal Goal(s)



UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

B-2 Employment Outcomes

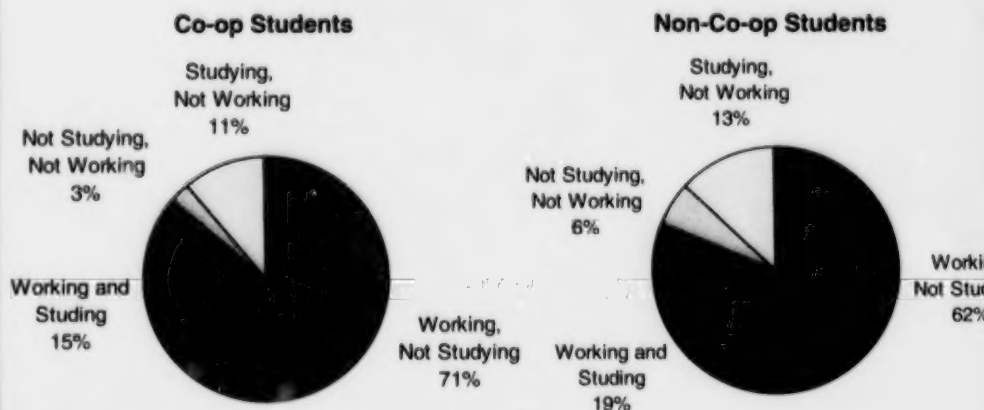
WHAT WERE UNIVERSITY
CO-OP GRADUATES
DOING ONE YEAR AFTER
LEAVING THEIR
PROGRAM?

A year after leaving their program most co-op graduates were employed.

When interviewed, 86 percent of co-op graduates were either "working" or "working and studying." Fewer non-co-op students (81%) were "working," or "working and studying."

Both groups were equally likely to be both studying and not working, or doing neither. Regardless, these current activity groups represented less than 20 percent of all university co-op and non-co-op graduates.

**Figure 3
Current Activity**



HOW MANY CO-OP
GRADUATES WERE IN
THE LABOUR FORCE
WHEN INTERVIEWED?

Most former university co-op graduates were in the labour force.

The labour force includes individuals who are working or actively looking for work. When interviewed, 91 percent of co-op graduates stated they were in the labour force. Non-co-op graduates were less likely to be in the labour force: 85 percent were working or looking for work.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Both groups of graduates spent roughly the same amount of time looking for work.

The average amount of time co-op graduates spent looking for work was 2.31 months, compared to 2.75 months for non-co-op students.

More co-op graduates worked full time than non-co-op students.

Compared to non-co-op graduates, a larger percentage of co-op graduates were employed full-time when interviewed.

It was more common for non-co-op graduates to have part-time jobs. This may indicate that more non-co-op graduates than co-op graduates were balancing work and school.

Table 3
Employment Rates / Former Co-op & Non-Co-op Students
Students in Labour Force

	Co-op Students	Non-Co-op Students
Full-Time	86%	71%
Part-Time	9%	22%
Unemployed	4%	5%

Most co-op graduates found a training-related job after leaving school.

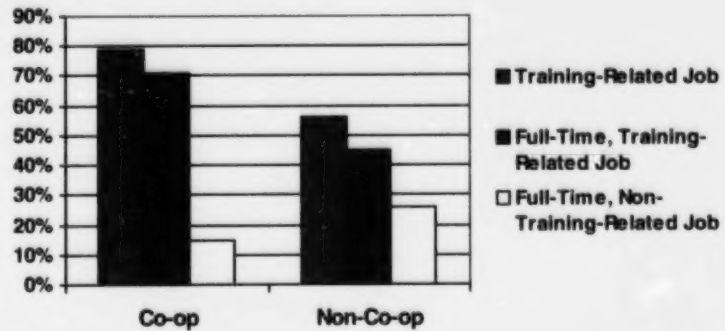
University co-op programs aim to help students find full-time employment related to their training. Nearly 80 percent of co-op graduates stated they had training-related jobs and 71 percent were working full-time. In comparison, Only 56 percent of non-co-op graduates had training related jobs and only 45 percent of these graduates were working full-time.

WHAT TYPES OF
WORK DID CO-OP
STUDENTS FIND WHEN
THEY GRADUATED?

WAS CO-OP
GRADUATES'
EMPLOYMENT RELATED
TO THEIR EDUCATION?

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

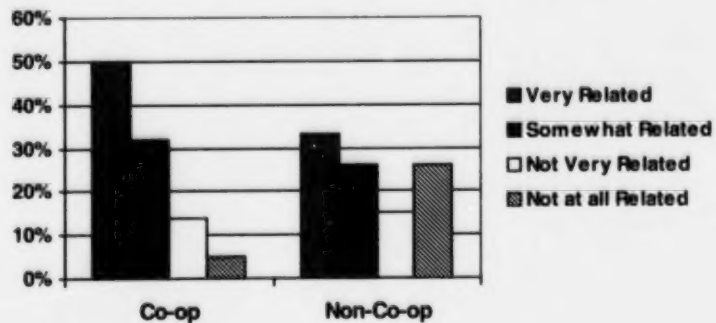
Figure 3
Students in Labour Force: Training-Related Employment



The majority of former co-op graduates said their jobs were closely related to their former studies.

Most co-op graduates said their current jobs were "very" or "somewhat" related to their studies. There was no clear consensus among non-co-op graduates. Only 59 percent said their jobs were "very" or "somewhat" related to their education.

Figure 4
Employed Students: Relation of Current Job to Studies



UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Most co-op graduates felt their training helped them perform their job.

More co-op students felt their training helped them perform their jobs compared to non-co-op students. Eighty-eight percent of co-op graduates said their training was "very" or "somewhat" useful for performing their job, compared to 70 percent of non-co-op students.

Table 5
Employed Students: Usefulness of Training in Getting Job

Usefulness of Training	Getting Job		Performing Job	
	Co-op	Non-Co-op	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Very Useful	65%	44%	39%	28%
Somewhat Useful	30%	32%	49%	42%
Not Very Useful	3%	10%	9%	16%
Not at All Useful	2%	14%	4%	13%

Median Salaries were higher for former co-op students.

Median gross monthly salaries for former co-op students were slightly higher than those of non-co-op students. The salaries of co-op students working in training-related jobs were nine percent higher than non-co-op students' salaries.

Table 6
Median Gross Monthly Salaries

	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Gross Monthly Salary (\$)	\$3,300	\$3,000
Gross Monthly Salary of Training Related Job(\$)	\$3,300	\$3,000
Gross Monthly Salary of Non Training Related Job (\$)	\$2,916	\$2,500

B-3 Educational Outcomes

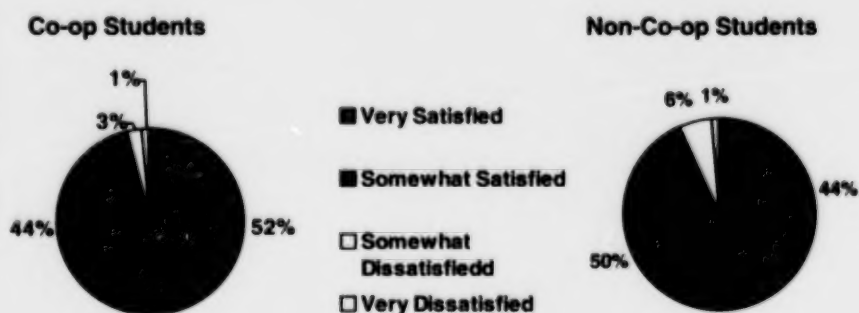
WERE GRADUATES
SATISFIED WITH THEIR
BACHELOR
PROGRAMS?

More co-op graduates were "very satisfied" with their programs than non-co-op graduates.

Overall, both co-op and non-co-op graduates expressed high levels of satisfaction with the education they received. Of co-op graduates, 96 percent responded they were "very" or "somewhat" satisfied, compared to 93 percent of non-co-op graduates.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Figure 5
Satisfaction with Bachelor Programs



HOW DID CO-OP
 GRADUATES RATE THE
 VARIOUS ASPECTS OF
 THEIR PROGRAMS?

Co-op and non-co-op graduates had good things to say about their programs.

Both groups agreed they "learned a great deal..." in their programs. In particular, co-op graduates were positive about the practical experience they received from their programs, while non-co-op students stated the opposite.

Table 7
Rating Program of Study
(Rating on 4-Point Scale)

Rating experiences in order of preference			
Co-op		Non-Co-op	
Learned a great deal in this program	3.40	Learned a great deal in this program	3.35
Workload was manageable	3.25	Workload was manageable	3.34
Availability of instructors or tutors for help	3.07	Quality of instruction	3.06
Quality of instruction	3.03	Availability of instructors or tutors for help	3.09
Content of program	2.98	Content of program	3.01
Availability of required courses	2.81	Availability of required courses	2.71
Practical Experience	2.82	Textbooks and learning materials	2.70
Textbooks and learning materials	2.70	Practical Experience	2.07

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

B-4 Further Education

DID CO-OP
GRADUATES TAKE
FURTHER STUDIES
AFTER GRADUATION?

Many co-op graduates went on to further studies after graduation.

After graduation, it was very likely that graduates took some type of further education. Of co-op graduates, 62 percent went on to further education, while 67 percent of non-co-op graduates continued with their studies.

Table 8
Types of Further Education*

	Co-op	Non-Co-op
Another bachelor's degree	6%	6%
Master's degree	40%	33%
Doctoral degree	5%	3%
Technical or vocational training	16%	20%
Teacher training	1%	6%
Law degree	2%	2%
Medical degree	1%	2%
Dentistry degree	0%	0%
Other university professional training	1%	0%
Other university or college academic credit courses	3%	4%
Professional certification programs	16%	16%
Technical, multiple short courses	8%	8%

*Of those who went on to further education

The type of further education co-op and non-co-op graduates took varied.

Forty percent of co-op graduates who continued with their education went on to pursue a master's degree. Thirty-three percent of non-co-op graduates who continued with their education also pursued a master's program after graduating from their bachelor's program. Technical or vocational training was also popular among both groups of students, although more non-co-op students indicated they took this type of training. Both groups were equally likely to have pursued professional certification programs.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

Conclusion

While both co-op and non-co-op university graduates shared similar goals, co-op students were more likely to feel they satisfied the goals they had for enrolling in their program. Approximately half of both groups had job-related goals for enrolling. These outcomes are also reflected in co-op and non-co-op graduates' employment outcomes, where co-op graduates were more likely to be employed, many in full-time, training-related jobs. Most non-co-op graduates were also employed, but were not likely to feel their education had helped them find or perform their jobs. Non-co-op students were slightly more likely to go on to further education after graduating; most went on to obtain master's degrees or entered professional certification programs or technical/vocational training.

University co-op and non-co-op graduates clearly experience different outcomes by participating or not participating in their program's work terms. Regardless of their employment or education outcomes, over ninety percent of both co-op and non-co-op graduates were "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with their programs and their educational experiences. However, it is clear that by taking advantage of the work experience co-op programs have to offer, co-op students were more likely to achieve their goals – achievements that, overall, translate into better labour market outcomes.

MORE INFORMATION

Under the guidance of the Outcomes Working Group, CEISS produces a range of reports based on the results of the Student Outcomes Survey. A series of reports from the 1998 survey will be released during the summer and fall of 1999 and early 2000.

If you would like more information about Student Outcomes reports, please contact Tony Eder at (250) 978-4205 or teder@ceiss.org.

Other Student Outcomes reports are available on-line at www.ceiss.org/edresearch

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

THE COLLEGE & INSTITUTE STUDENT OUTCOMES SURVEY PROJECT

The BC College and Institute Student Outcomes Survey Project is jointly funded by Human Resources and Development Canada and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, under the Canada/BC Strategic Initiative Program, and BC's public colleges and institutes.

The British Columbia Outcomes Working Group (OWG) oversees all aspects of the project, from data collection through to the reporting of results. The OWG is a decade-old partnership between colleges and institutes and system bodies, such as the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, the Advanced Education Council of BC, and the BC Council of Admissions and Transfer. The partnership is one of shared interests, funding, and expertise.

The survey results are used:

- by colleges and institutes to evaluate program offerings and services;
- to support decision making and program evaluation by the Ministry;
- to enhance understanding of the labour market; and
- to assist new students in selecting their educational programs.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT OUTCOMES SURVEY PROJECT

The BC University Graduate Outcomes Project is conducted with funding from the University Presidents' Council, BC Universities and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. Since 1996, baccalaureate graduates who were out of University for 1, 2, or 5 years have been contacted by way of a telephone survey.

The project is overseen by the University Graduate Outcomes Committee (UGOC), a subcommittee of the University President's Council of British Columbia. The UGOC consists of the Secretary to Council, and representatives from public universities and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

The survey results are used:

- by universities to evaluate program offerings and services;
- for system level performance review for the Ministry;
- to enhance understanding of the labour market; and
- to assist new students in selecting their educational programs.

Appendix 1

FURTHER STUDIES AND EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM AREA
FORMER BC COLLEGE AND INSTITUTE CO-OP AND NON-CO-OP STUDENTS, 1997

Program Area	Responses N	% Taken Further Studies		% Found Studies Completely Satisfying	% In Labour Force		% In Labour Force in Training		% In Full-Time Training Related Job		Average Gross Monthly Salary	
		%	N		%	N	%	N	%	N	\$	N
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Science Tech.	Co-op	26	33	15	97	88	28	85	20	3,010		
	Non - Co-op	21	64	39	94	80	50	78	50	3,177		
Engineering, Electrical and Electronics	Co-op	22	90	21	94	83	72	80	53	2,939		
	Non - Co-op	39	92	25	88	66	57	62	62	2,587		
Business and Management	Co-op	38	74	28	90	85	53	72	54	2,320		
	Non - Co-op	48	286	27	87	88	148	52	195	2,266		
Recreation, Tourism, Hospitality and Service	Co-op	32	48	32	91	67	30	63	37	1,989		
	Non - Co-op	29	46	16	94	80	34	74	27	2,169		
Computer and Information Services	Co-op	25	63	23	98	81	50	79	50	3,222		
	Non - Co-op	29	19	19	90	53	7	37	12	2,467		
Program Areas with fewer than 10 co-op or non-co-op respondents	Co-op	20	66	40	94	68	45	68	46	1,966		
	Non - Co-op	31	48	37	88	72	31	65	32	2,297		
All co-op respondents	399	27	374	27	94	77	278	74	260	2,620		
All non-co-op respondents	624	41	555	28	89	64	327	59	378	2,447		
All respondents	1,023	36	929	27	91	70	605	65	638	2,506		

Program areas with fewer than 10 respondents in either the co-op or non-co-op category include: Construction and Precision Production, Transportation, Communications, Visual, Performing and Fine Arts, Health Related and Mechanical and Related.

Appendix 2

FURTHER STUDIES AND EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM AREA BC UNIVERSITY CO-OP AND NON-CO-OP GRADUATES, 1997

Program Area	Responses N	% Taken Further Studies	% Found Studies Very Satisfying	% In Labour Force		% In Labour Force in Training		% In Full-Time Training Related Job		Average Gross Monthly Salary	
				%	N	%	N	%	N	\$	\$
Applied Science	Co-op	48%	52%	105	94%	82%	86	82%	90	3,570	
	Non - Co-op	58%	29%	119	86%	73%	86	72%	89	3,330	
Arts	Co-op	66%	53%	63	86%	65%	33	52%	38	3,190	
	Non - Co-op	66%	44%	900	84%	45%	267	30%	436	2,750	
Commerce	Co-op	68%	49%	115	91%	78%	86	75%	89	2,910	
	Non - Co-op	71%	44%	271	92%	76%	201	74%	206	2,680	
Health Professions	Co-op	66%	52%	28	97%	71%	12	43%	10	2,830	
	Non - Co-op	74%	37%	18	95%	78%	5	28%	7	4,166	
Science	Co-op	68%	54%	124	87%	82%	89	72%	94	3,330	
	Non - Co-op	68%	41%	381	80%	55%	170	45%	202	2,910	
Social Professions	Co-op	47%	76%	17	100%	88%	14	82%	12	3,330	
	Non - Co-op	65%	56%	102	94%	88%	79	77%	74	3,200	
All co-op respondents	508	62%	52%	460	91%	78%	324	70%	337	3,333	
All non-co-op respondents	2205	66%	43%	1876	85%	56%	835	45%	1051	2,910	
All respondents	2713	65%	45%	2336	86%	61%	1159	50%	1388	2,910	

Visual, Performing and Fine Arts was excluded due to small cohort sizes with regards to the questions listed above.